**Is This a Scholarly Publication?**

**A Student’s Guide to Telling the Difference between Different Types of Publications**

If the publication in question meets most of the criteria in the **SCHOLARLY** column, it should qualify as scholarly or academic. If it meets the criteria in the other columns, it may or may not fit your instructor's requirement for a scholarly source.

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|  | **Scholarly Journals** | **News/**  **General Interest Periodicals** | **Popular Magazines** |
| **Examples** | ***American Journal of Political Science***  ***Environmental Health Perspectives***  ***Journal of Art & Design Education*** | ***Atlantic Monthly***  ***Time***  ***Psychology Today*** | ***People***  ***InStyle***  ***Sports Illustrated*** |
| **Advertising** | Contain selective advertising | Contain some advertising | Contain extensive advertising |
| **Audience** | Written for a college level audience in a particular field of study | Written for a college educated audience | Written for a general audience |
| **Authors** | Written by scholars or researchers in a specialized discipline. Authors’ work has been carefully reviewed and approved by an editorial board before publication. | Written by staff, free-lance, or scholarly writers. Editorial review for accuracy | Written by staff or free-lance writers. Some editorial review |
| **Format** | Have an unadorned, serious format | Are attractive in appearance | Are slick and glossy with an attractive format |
| **Graphics** | Contain graphs, formulas, and charts to illustrate concepts | Include photos, graphics and illustrations to enhance the article | Contain photos, illustrations, and drawings to enhance the publication's image |
| **Vocabulary** | Use specialized terminology, language, and vocabulary of the discipline covered. Reader is assumed to have similar background | Use language appropriate for college readers | Use simple language for minimal educational level. Articles are short, with little depth |
| **Publishers** | Generally published by professional organizations or educational institutions e.g*.* American Sociological Society, Oxford University Press | Published by commercial enterprises | Published by commercial enterprises solely for profit |
| **Purpose** | To inform, report and share original research | Provide general information to a wide interested audience | Designed to entertain or persuade, to sell products or services |
| **Sources** | Cite sources with footnotes, reference lists, and/or bibliographies | Occasionally cite sources, but not as a rule | Rarely cite sources. Original sources may be obscure |

**[Source: *Is This a Scholarly Publication?* Drexel University Libraries]**